

# KANSAS

## ARTS COMMISSION

### 2008 Governor's Arts Awards a Great Success

The Kansas Arts Commission recognized recipients of the 2008 Governor's Arts Awards at a dinner and awards ceremony on June 26 at Washburn University in Topeka. Awards were presented by Governor Kathleen Sebelius and Kansas Arts Commission Chair Anita Wolgast. More than 250 people attended.

This year's winners were The City of Wichita, Division of Arts and Cultural Services (arts community); The Elaris Duo, Topeka (artist); Dick and Beverly Hess, McPherson (arts patrons); Jay and Barbara Nelson, Manhattan (arts advocates); John Tibbetts, Lenexa (arts-in-education); and Van Go Mobile Arts, Lawrence (arts organization).

In addition, jazz and nightclub singer Marilyn Maye, an Overland Park resident, was honored with this year's Distinguished Arts Award. Maye entertained the audience with a song she wrote commemorating the event and The Elaris Duo also performed.

The Governor's Arts Awards are honors given annually to distinguished Kansas artists, patrons and educators. This year's winners were selected from 37 nominees.

Nominations are currently being accepted for the 2009 Governor's Arts Awards. Nomination ma-

terials can be found on the Kansas Arts Commission website at <http://arts.ks.gov/gaa/index.shtml>. The nomination deadline is September 18, 2008.



*Distinguished Arts Award winner Marilyn Maye flanked by Governor Kathleen Sebelius (l) and Kansas Arts Commission Chair Anita Wolgast (r).*



*2008 Governor's Arts Awards Recipients (l-r): Steven and Laris Elisha (The Elaris Duo); Lynn Greene (Van Go Mobile Arts); Jay and Barbara Nelson; Marilyn Maye; LaVonta Williams, Sharon Fearey and John D'Angelo (The City of Wichita); Dick and Beverly Hess; and John Tibbetts.*



*Governor's Arts Award designed by Ron Hinton of Lawrence.*

## The *Mission* of the Kansas Arts Commission

*To provide opportunities for the people of Kansas to experience, celebrate and value the arts throughout their lives.*

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## Letter from the Executive Director

Greetings!

In my two years so far at the Kansas Arts Commission, I've been struck by two extraordinary truths:

- Arts and cultural organizations know how to spin gold out of hay like nothing else: We're fantastic at getting a tremendous amount done on very little money, a can-do spirit and unbeatable volunteer commitment;
- Despite the challenges we face, our programs are great.

But like all nonprofits throughout the country, the Kansas arts nonprofit community needs to face a hard reality: Without investment in our administrative infrastructure, we're going to struggle for our survival.

Nonprofit organizations are increasingly required to operate with sound business practices; they must identify income from multiple sources, steward it well and according to national standards. They must pay people (artists and employees) a reasonable wage for their work. Doing good isn't enough; we need to do good by doing well. And that's a challenge in a rural state like Kansas, especially as we look at an economic downturn.

I urge everyone involved in arts organizations and arts businesses to take advantage of the amazing array of learning opportunities offered throughout the state. Not only does the Kansas Arts Commission offer professional development courses – which many of you have taken – but almost every Kansas community offers small or non-profit business classes.

Check out the Kansas Arts Commission's website at <http://arts.ks.gov/resources/index.shtml> for lists of national, regional and local resources, workshops and seminars. We are grateful to the many arts administrators throughout the state who provide us with information on the assistance and support they've received from the organizations listed.

And please, let us know how else we can help *you* bring the arts to all Kansans.

Yours truly,



Llewellyn Crain  
Executive Director



*Llewellyn Crain*

### **Save-the-Date!**

The Kansas Arts Commission will host a statewide arts conference March 4, 5 and 6 in Topeka.

Watch our website —

**<http://arts.ks.gov>** — and weekly e-blasts for more information!



## Accessible Arts Makes Art Available for Everyone

Unlocking the arts for children with disabilities has been the focus of Accessible Arts, Inc. for the past 27 years. This nonprofit organization, based in Kansas City, believes that through the arts all children can develop critical thinking skills, take risks in a safe environment and experience successes.

“The challenge of creating something of value instills hope and self-confidence in children,” said Martin English, executive director. “Ironically the need is greater than it was when Accessible Arts was founded as children with disabilities have been mainstreamed.

“Educators need and want the knowledge on how to approach lesson plans that make the arts accessible to students with disabilities, as well as all students and their different learning styles,” he added.

For English, the greatest joy in providing access to the arts is when a student flourishes with a new skill.

“We had a blind teenager whom we introduced to ceramics,” said English. “He started creating intricate pots and detailed angels, and became very talented.

“Another high school student with cerebral palsy started out writing radio plays,” he said. “After graduation, he was accepted into Wichita State University’s Theatre Department and was cast as the lead in his first play.”



*Students with and without disabilities collaborate to perform the Jellybean Conspiracy play.*

Accessible Arts has partnered with the Kansas Arts Commission and VSA *arts* to offer free cultural access services to arts organizations and facilities across the state.

“Our approach is rooted in the concept known as ‘universal design’ that does not disadvantage or stigmatize anyone,” said English. “So far, we have provided services to more than 20 organizations in the state and have traveled to cities such as Wichita, Manhattan, Iola and Fowler.”

Free cultural access services include:

### Accessibility Surveys

- In-depth reports on the accessibility of venues based on the Americans with Disabilities Act.

### One-on-One Program Consultation

- Expert consultation on making programming more accessible to people of all abilities.
- Instruction on best practices, universal design and adaptations.

## Commissioners

**Anita Wolgast**  
Chair  
Topeka

**Judy Langley**  
Vice-Chair  
Hutchinson

**John Divine**  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Salina

**Jennie Becker**  
Wichita

**Christine Downey-Schmidt**  
Inman

**Ann Evans**  
Lawrence

**Lon Frahm**  
Colby

**Grant Glenn**  
Lawrence

**Novelene Ross**  
Wichita

**Lemuel Sheppard**  
Pittsburg

## Staff and Volunteer Training for Organizations

- Programs include universal design training, disability awareness for ushers or docents, and accessibility program training for teaching artists.

For more information about Accessible Arts, Inc., visit [www.accessiblearts.org](http://www.accessiblearts.org), call 913/281-1133 or e-mail [menglish@accessiblearts.org](mailto:menglish@accessiblearts.org).

## Important Deadlines

### Governor's Arts Awards

- Nomination deadline: **September 18**

### Kansas Arts on Tour Roster Artists

- Application deadline: **September 18**

### Poet Laureate of Kansas 2009-2011

- Application deadline: **October 2**

### Kansas Artist Fellowship Awards

- Application deadline: **November 24**

## FREE Upcoming KAC Workshops

### Marketing for Arts

#### Organizations

- September 25, Topeka
- September 26, Wichita

### Critical Planning: Strategic and Financial Planning for Success

- November 11, Lawrence
- November 12, Lindsborg
- November 13, Pittsburg

### Program Planning and Evaluation / Arts-in-Education Strategies

- January 13, Junction City
- January 14, Hays
- January 15, Wichita

### Grant Writing Basics

- January 27, Topeka
- January 28, Topeka and Video-conferencing Sites

### Fundraising Basics: Prospect Research

- February 11, McPherson
- February 12, Overland Park

Watch our website —  
<http://arts.ks.gov> —  
and weekly e-blasts for updates!

### Save-the-Date!

Kansas Arts Conference  
March 4-6, Topeka



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